

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

A novel vaccine composition combines a protein or peptide antigen, optionally added hydrophobic material and an immunopotentiating membranous carrier which together preserve the antigenic integrity of the protein or peptide epitopes while at the same time enhancing their immunogenicity. Administration of this composition to a subject provokes a protective immune response comprising secretory neutralizing antibodies present in various mucosal sites in the body. This vaccine and the process for using it is intended for use against pathogenic organisms, in particular those causing sexually transmitted diseases or mucosally transmitted diseases. Such organisms include bacteria and enveloped viruses, particularly HIV-1.